Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of using a computer to gather information about an organizational process or system, comprising:

receiving general information about an organization process or system;

prompting an assessor to select at least two standards against which to assess the organizational process or system, where<u>in</u> at least one question is provided within a computer to assess each selected standard, wherein at least one of the two selected standards is a recognized industry standard prescribing system or process criteria <u>regarding cost, delivery, customer satisfaction, manufacturing technology, tool development, industrial quality, and/or environmental/health/safety,</u> and wherein the recognized industry standard is selected based on the general information about the organization process or system;

displaying on a display device the at least one question associated with the selected standards, the question being adapted to prompt an assessor to input the assessor's perceptions of the organizational process or system;

receiving a first input from an input device, the first input reflecting the assessor's perception of the organizational process or system;

comparing within a processing unit of a computer the first input to a first value, and, if the first input has a first predetermined characteristic in relation to the first values, then prompting the assessor to identify evidence that supports the first input, and if the

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supporting evidence is identified, then validating the first input for subsequent evaluation, and if the supporting evidence is not identified, then inhibiting validation of the first input until the evidence is identified or until the first input is changed to have second predetermined characteristics in relation to the first value.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising analyzing the input to determine if one or more problem areas are present in the organizational process or system.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, displaying comprises displaying remotely.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying comprises displaying the at least one question across a global computer network.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the input is a numerical input.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying on the display device at least one corrective action question, the at least one corrective action question being adapted to prompt the assessor to input on the input device the assessor's perception of the problem area of the organizational process or system.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving at least one corrective action input, the at least one corrective action input being stored in the computer's memory.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying on a display device the at least one question associated with the selected standards comprises displaying questions that are repeated within the selected standards only once.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first predetermined characteristic is defined to mean that the first input has a value that is less than the first value, and the second predetermined characteristic is defined to mean that the first input has a value that is at least as great as the first value.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first input is on a numerical scale, the scale being 1 to 10, 1 to 100, or 0 to 100 percent.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein if evidence is not identified that supports the first input, then further comprising inhibiting the display of subsequent questions until the evidence is identified or until first input is changed to have the second predetermined characteristic in relation to the first value.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising prompting the assessor to input a second numerical input on an input device of a computer comprising the assessor's perception of how well the organizational process or system functions to address the issue, and receiving the second input from the input device, the second input being stored in a memory of the computer, and the second input reflecting the assessor's perception of the results achieved by the organizational process or system.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising comparing within a processing unit of a computer the second input to a second value, and, if the second input has a first predetermined characteristic in relation to the second value, then prompting the assessor to identify evidence that supports the second input, and if evidence is identified that supports the second input, then validating the second input for subsequent evaluation, and if the evidence is not identified that supports the second input, then inhibiting validation of the second input until the evidence is identified or until the second input is changed to have a second predetermined characteristic in relation to the second value.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein if evidence is not identified that supports the second input, then further comprising inhibiting the display of subsequent questions until the evidence is identified or until second input is changed to have a third predetermined characteristic in relation to the second value.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising evaluating the organizational process or system by comparing inputs from the assessor with known empirically-gathered information.

16. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising using the first and second inputs together to evaluate the organizational process or system.

17. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising multiplying the first input with the second input to evaluate the organizational process or system.

18. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising using differences between the first input and the second input to evaluate the organizational process or system.

19. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising receiving first and second inputs from a plurality of assessors, and determining the standard deviation of the first numerical input, and the standard deviation of the second numerical input, from the numerical inputs received from the assessors, and then using a standard deviation to evaluate at least a portion of the organizational process or system.

20. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the evidence comprises visible evidence.

21. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the evidence comprises supporting documentation.

22. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the evidence comprises visible evidence, and further comprising comparing within a processing unit of a computer the first input to second value, and, if the first input has a first predetermined characteristic in relation to the second value, the prompting the assessor to identify supporting documentation that supports the first input; and if supporting documentation is identified, then validating the first input for subsequent evaluation, and if the supporting documentation is not identified, then inhibiting the validation of the first input until the supporting documentation is identified or until the first input is changed to have a second predetermined characteristic in relation to the second value.

23. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising prompting the assessor to input on the input device of the computer an assessment as to whether the organizational process or system is demonstrable, and, if an input is received from the input device that indicates that the organizational process or system is demonstrable, then validating the first input, and, if an input is received from the input device that indicates that the organizational process or system is not demonstrable, then inhibiting validation of the first input until the assessor changes the first input to have a first determined characteristic in relation to a second value.

24. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying at least one input as a sliding bar on a display device.

25. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising preparing an assessment timeline based on assessor input.

26. (original) The method of claim 25, further comprising notifying the assessor of a deadline identified in the assessment timeline.

27. (original) The method of claim 25, further comprising escalating a notification to one or more predetermined individuals if a response is not received from an assessor within a predetermined period of time.

28. (cancelled)

29. (cancelled)

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising prompting an assessor to provide recommendations to improve the organizational process or system.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising prompting an assessor to provide recommendations to improve the organizational process or system by use of an user

adjustable icon system, wherein selecting a value on a first user adjustable icon limits the range of values displayed for selection on a second user adjustable icon.

32. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising performing an onsite assessment directed to one or more problem areas determined to be present in the organizational process or system.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising performing an onsite assessment directed to one or more problem areas determined to be present in the organizational process or system, wherein one or more onsite assessors are provided with a list of the problem areas and a list of the corrective actions input.

34. (original) The method of claim 33, further comprising providing at least one onsite assessor with a PDA having a list of the problem areas and a list of the corrective actions input.

35. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the results of the onsite assessment are input into the computer and stored in the computer's memory.

36. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the results provided by each onsite assessor are adjusted by a bias value identified for that assessor.

37. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein analyzing the inputs comprises comparing input from two or more assessors to one another.

38. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer comprises a PDA.

39. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein analyzing the inputs comprises comparing input from two or more similar questions to one another.

40. (currently amended) An apparatus adapted to gather information about an organizational process or system, the apparatus comprising:

a computer system, the computer system comprising:

a display device adapted to display computer driven questions;

an input device adapted to transfer inputs from an assessor;

a memory and a processing unit; and

wherein the apparatus is configured to implement:

receiving general information about an organization process or system;

prompting an assessor to select at least two standards against which to assess the organizational process or system, where at least one question is provided within a computer to assess each selected standard, wherein at least one of the two selected standards is a recognized industry standard prescribing system or process criteria regarding cost, delivery, customer satisfaction, manufacturing technology, tool development, industrial quality, and/or environmental/health/safety, and wherein the recognized industry standard industry is selected based on the general information about the organization process or system;

displaying on a display device the at least one question associated with the selected standards, the question being adapted to prompt an assessor to input the assessor's perceptions of the organizational process or system;

receiving a first input from an input device, the first input reflecting the assessor's perception of the organizational process or system;

comparing within a processing unit of a computer the first input to a first value, and, if the first input has a first predetermined characteristic in relation to the first values, then prompting the assessor to identify evidence that supports the first

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input, and if the supporting evidence is identified, then validating the first input for subsequent evaluation, and if the supporting evidence is not identified, then inhibiting validation of the first input until the evidence is identified or until the first input is changed to have second predetermined characteristics in relation to the first value.

41. (original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the displaying the at least one question associated with the selected standards, comprises displaying the at least one question remotely.

42. (original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the displaying the at least one question associated with the selected standards, comprises displaying the at least one question across a global computer network.

43. (original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the input is a numerical input.

44. (original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the apparatus is further adapted analyze the input to determine if one or more problem areas are present in the organizational process or system.

45. (original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the apparatus is further adapted display on the display device at least one corrective action question, the at least one corrective action question being adapted to prompt the assessor to input on the input device the assessor's perception of the problem area of the organizational process or system.

46. (original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the apparatus is further adapted receive at least one corrective action input, the at least one corrective action input being stored in the computer's memory.

47. (original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the apparatus is further adapted to display on the device the at least one question associated with the selected standards, wherein questions that are repeated within the selected standards are displayed only once.

48. (original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the apparatus is further adapted to prepare an assessment timeline based on assessor input.

49. (original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the computer system comprises a PDA.

50. (original) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the apparatus is further adapted to notify the assessor of a deadline identified in the assessment timeline.

51. (original) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the apparatus is further adapted to escalate a notification to one or more predetermined individuals if a response is not received from an assessor within a predetermined period of time.

52. (original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the apparatus is further adapted to prompt an assessor to provided recommendations to improve the organizational process or system.

53. (currently amended) A computer readable medium configured to store a set of program instructions that are configured to implement:

> receiving general information about an organization process or system;

> prompting an assessor to select at least two standards against which to assess the organizational process or system, where at least one question is provided within a computer to assess each selected standard, wherein at least one of the two selected standards is a recognized industry standard prescribing system or process criteria regarding cost, delivery, customer satisfaction, manufacturing technology, tool development, industrial quality, and/or environmental/health/safety, and wherein the recognized industry standard is selected based on the general information about the organization process or system;

displaying on a display device the at least one question associated with the selected standards, the question being adapted to prompt an assessor to input the assessor's perceptions of the organizational process or system;

receiving a first input from an input device, the first input reflecting the assessor's perception of the organizational process or system;

comparing within a processing unit of a computer the first input to a first value, and, if the first input has a first predetermined characteristic in relation to the first values, then prompting the assessor to identify evidence that supports the first input, and if the supporting evidence is identified, then validating the first input for subsequent evaluation, and if the supporting evidence is not identified, then inhibiting validation of the first input until the evidence is identified or until the first input is changed to have second predetermined characteristics in relation to the first value.

54. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the display device comprises a remote display device.

55. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the at least one question is displayed across a global computer network.

56. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the input is a numerical input.

57. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the instructions are configured to further implement analyzing the input to determine if one or more problem areas are present in the organizational process or system.

58. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the instructions are configured to further implement preparing an assessment timeline based on assessor input.

59. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 58, wherein the instructions are configured to further implement notifying the assessor of a deadline identified in the assessment timeline.

60. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 58, wherein the instructions are configured to further implement escalating a notification to one or more predetermined individuals if response is not received from an assessor within a predetermined period of time.

61. (cancelled)

62. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 58, wherein the instructions are configured to further implement displaying on the display device at least one corrective action question, the at least one corrective action question being adapted to prompt the assessor to input on the input device the assessor's perception of the problem area of the organizational process or system.

63. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 58, wherein the instructions are configured to further implement receiving at least one corrective action input.

64. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 58, wherein the instructions are configured to further implement prompting an assessor to provided recommendations to improve the organizational process or system.

65. (previously presented) A computer readable medium configured to store a set of instructions which:

      display a first user adjustable icon with a first allowed input range;

      receive a first input from a user, the first input corresponding to movement of an indicator on the first user adjustable icon, wherein a maximum value of the first input is greater than zero;

determine a second allowed input range for a second user adjustable icon based on the first input, wherein the second input is equal to or greater than the maximum value of first input;

display the second user adjustable icon, with the second allowed input range; and

receive a second input from the user, the second input corresponding to movement of an indicator on the second user adjustable icon.

66. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 65, wherein the first user adjustable icon is a sliding bar.

67. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 65, wherein displaying comprises displaying across a global computer network.

68. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 65, wherein displaying comprises displaying remotely.

69. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 65, wherein first and second inputs are numeric.

70. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 65, wherein the second user adjustable icon is a sliding bar.

71. (currently amended) A method of using a computer system to gather information about an organizational process or system, comprising:

obtaining information about the organization to be assessed, wherein the information comprises information regarding potential assessors, wherein obtaining the information regarding potential assessors comprises the computer system generating at least one

question configured to identify at least one person with knowledge pertinent to an assessment;

the computer system preparing at least one question regarding the organizational process or system by analyzing the obtained information about the organization;

the computer system identifying one or more assessors from the obtained potential assessor information;

the computer system automatically sending the at least one prepared question to at least one of the assessors;

displaying on a display device of the at least one assessor at least one question adapted to prompt the assessor to input on an input device of a computer the assessor's perceptions of the organizational process or system, wherein the assessor has at least some knowledge about the organizational process or system;
receiving a first input from an input device, the first input reflecting the assessor's perception of the organizational process or system;

comparing within a processing unit of a computer the first input to a first value, and, if the first input has a first predetermined characteristic in relation to the first values, then prompting the assessor to identify evidence that supports the first input, and if the supporting evidence is identified, then validating the first input for subsequent evaluation, and if the supporting evidence is not identified, then inhibiting validation of the first input until the evidence is identified or until the first input is changed to have second predetermined characteristics in relation to the values; and

prompting an assessor to provide recommendations to improve the organizational process or system by use of an user adjustable icon system, wherein selecting a value on a first

user adjustable icon limits the range of values displayed for selection on a second user adjustable icon.

72. (original) The method of claim 71, wherein sending the prepared questions to at least one of the assessors comprises sending the prepared questions over global computer network.

73. (original) The method of claim 71, wherein displaying comprises displaying remotely.

74. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising sending at least one warning notification prior to sending the prepared questions.

75. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising sending at least one reminder notification if answers are not received within a predetermined period of time.

76. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising sending the at least one prepared question to a different assessor if answers are not received within a predetermined period of time.

77. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising sending at least one reminder notification to an assessor's supervisor if answers are not received within a predetermined period of time.

78. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising analyzing the input to determine if one or more problem areas are present in the organizational process or system.

79. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising displaying on the display device at least one corrective action question, the at least one corrective action question being adapted to prompt the at least one assessor to input on the input device the assessor's perception of a problem area of the organizational process or system.

80. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising receiving at least one corrective action input, the corrective action input being stored in a computer's memory.

81. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising prompting an assessor to select at least two standards against which to assess the organizational process or system, where at least one question is provided within the computer to assess each selected standard prior to preparing the at least one question regarding the organizational process or system.

82. (original) The method of claim 81, wherein displaying on a display device the at least one question associated with the selected standards comprises displaying questions that are repeated within the selected standards only once.

83. (original) The method of claim 71, wherein the first predetermined characteristic is defined to mean that the first input has a value that is less than the first value, and the second predetermined characteristic is defined to mean that the first input has a value that is at least as great as the first value.

84. (original) The method of claim 71, wherein at least one of the first input is on a numerical scale, the scale being 1 to 10, 1 to 100, or 0 to 100 percent.

85. (original) The method of claim 71, wherein if evidence is not identified that supports the first input, then further comprising inhibiting the display of subsequent questions until the evidence is identified or until first input is changed to have the second predetermined characteristic in relation to the first value.

86. (previously presented) The method of claim 71, further comprising prompting the assessor to input a second input on an input device of the computer comprising the assessor's perception of how well the organizational process or system functions to address the issue, and receiving the second input from the input device, the second input being stored in a memory of the computer, and the second input reflecting the assessor's perception of the results achieved by the organizational process or system.

87. (original) The method of claim 86, further comprising comparing within a processing unit of the computer the second numerical input to a second value, and, if the second numerical input has a first predetermined characteristic in relation to the second value, then prompting the assessor to identify evidence that supports the second numerical input, and if evidence is identified that supports the second numerical input, then validating the second numerical input for subsequent evaluation, and if the evidence is not identified that supports the second numerical input, then inhibiting validation of the second numerical input until the evidence is identified or until the second numerical input is changed to have a second predetermined characteristic in relation to the second value.

88. (previously presented) The method of claim 87, wherein if evidence is not identified that supports the second input, then further comprising inhibiting the display of subsequent questions until the evidence is identified or until second numerical input is changed to have a third predetermined characteristic in relation to the second value.

89. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising evaluating the organizational process or system by comparing inputs from the assessor with known empirically-gathered information.

90. (original) The method of claim 86, further comprising using the first and second inputs together to evaluate the organizational process or system.

91. (original) The method of claim 71, wherein the computer comprises a PDA.

92. (original) The method of claim 86, further comprising multiplying the first input with the second input to evaluate the organizational process or system.

93. (original) The method of claim 86, further comprising using differences between the first input and the second input to evaluate the organizational process or system.

94. (original) The method of claim 86, further comprising receiving first and second inputs from a plurality of assessors, and determining the standard deviation of the first input, and the standard

deviation of the second input, from the inputs received from the assessors, and then using a standard deviation to evaluate at least a portion of the organizational process or system.

95. (original) The method of claim 71, wherein the evidence comprises visible evidence.

96. (original) The method of claim 71, wherein the evidence comprises supporting documentation.

97. (original) The method of claim 71, wherein the evidence comprises visible evidence, and further comprising comparing within a processing unit of the computer the first input to second value, and, if the first numerical input has a first predetermined characteristic in relation to the second value, the prompting the assessor to identify supporting documentation that supports the first input; and if supporting documentation is identified, then validating the first value for subsequent evaluation, and if the supporting documentation is not identified, then inhibiting the validation of the first input until the supporting documentation is identified or until the first input is changed to have a second predetermined characteristic in relation to the second value.

98. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising prompting the assessor to input on the input device of the computer an assessment as to whether the organizational process or system is demonstrable, and, if an input is received from the input device that indicates that the organizational process or system is demonstrable, then validating the first input, and, if an input is received from the input device that indicates that the organizational process or system is not demonstrable, then inhibiting validation of the first input until the assessor changes the first input to have a first determined characteristic in relation to a second value.

99. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising displaying at least one input as a sliding bar on a display device.

100. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising preparing an assessment timeline based on assessor input.

101. (original) The method of claim 100, further comprising notifying the assessor of a deadline identified in the assessment timeline.

102. (cancelled)

103. (cancelled)

104. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising prompting an assessor to provided recommendations to improve the organizational process or system.

105. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising prompting an assessor to provided recommendations to improve the organizational process or system by use of an double slide bar, wherein selecting a value on the first slide bar limits the range of values displayed for selection on the second slide bar.

106. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising performing an onsite assessment directed to one or more problem areas determined to be present in the organizational process or system.

107. (original) The method of claim 71, further comprising performing an onsite assessment directed to one or more problem areas determined to be present in the organizational process or system, wherein one ore more onsite assessor are provided with a list of the problem areas and a list of the corrective actions input.

108. (original) The method of claim 107, further comprising providing at least one onsite assessor with a PDA having a list of the problem areas and a list of the corrective actions input.

109. (original) The method of claim 107, wherein the results of the onsite assessment are input into the computer and stored in the computer's memory.

110. (original) The method of claim 107, wherein the results provided by each onsite assessor are adjusted by a bias value identified for that assessor.

111. (original) The method of claim 71, wherein analyzing the numerical inputs comprises comparing input from two or more assessors to one another.

112. (original) The method of claim 71, wherein analyzing the numerical inputs comprises comparing input from two or more similar questions to one another.

113. (previously presented) A method of using a computer to gather information about an organizational process or system, comprising:

> obtaining information about an organization to be assessed, wherein the information comprises information regarding assessors;

> preparing at least one question regarding the organizational process or system by analyzing the obtained information about the organization;

> displaying on a display device a first user adjustable icon and a second user adjustable icon and at least one question, the first user adjustable icon being adjustable within a first allowed range; the second user adjustable icon being adjustable within a second allowed range; and wherein the at least one question being adapted to prompt the assessor to input the assessor's perceptions of the organizational process or system;

> receiving a first input from a user, the first input corresponding to movement of the first user adjustable icon, wherein a maximum value of the first input is greater than zero;

> determining a second allowed input range for a second user adjustable icon based on the first input, wherein the second input is equal to or greater than the maximum value of the first input;

receiving a second input from the user, the second input corresponding to movement of the second user adjustable icon.

114. (original) The method of claim 113, wherein the first user adjustable icon comprises a sliding bar icon.

115. (original) The method of claim 113, wherein the inputs are numeric inputs.

116. (original) The method of claim 113, wherein displaying comprises displaying remotely.

117. (original) The method of claim 113, wherein displaying comprises displaying across a global computer network.

118. (original) The method of claim 113, wherein the second user adjustable icon comprises a sliding bar icon.

119. (original) The method of claim 113, wherein the first input corresponds to the users perception of an aspect of a process or system in a present state.

120. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the second input corresponds to the users estimate of an aspect of a process or system in a projected future state.

121. (original) The method of claim 113, wherein determining the second allowed input range for the second user adjustable icon comprises setting a minimum allowed value or the second allowed input range to be equal to the first input.

122. (original) The method of claim 113, wherein determining the second allowed input range for the second user adjustable icon comprises setting a maximum allowed value or the second allowed input range to be equal to the first input.

123. (original) The method of claim 113, further comprising analyzing the inputs to determine if one or more problem areas are present in the organizational process or system.

124. (original) The method of claim 123, wherein analyzing the inputs comprises comparing input from two or more assessors to one another.

125. (original) The method of claim 123, wherein analyzing the inputs comprises comparing input from two or more similar questions to one another.

126. (original) The method of claim 113, further comprising displaying on the display device at least one corrective action question, the at least one corrective action question being adapted to prompt the assessor to input on the input device the assessor's perception of the problem area of the organizational process or system.

127. (original) The method of claim 126, further comprising receiving at least one corrective action input, the corrective action input being stored in the computer's memory.

128. (original) The method of claim 113, wherein at least one of the first and second inputs are on a numerical scale, the scale being 1 to 10, 1 to 100, or 0 to 100 percent.

129. (original) The method of claim 113, further comprising evaluating the organizational process or system by comparing inputs from the assessor with known empirically-gathered information.

130. (original) The method of claim 113, further comprising using the first and second inputs together to evaluate the organizational process or system.

131. (original) The method of claim 113, wherein the computer comprises a PDA.

132. (original) The method of claim 113, further comprising multiplying the first input with the second input to evaluate the organizational process or system.

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133. (original) The method of claim 113, further comprising using differences between the first input and the second input to evaluate the organizational process or system.

134. (original) The method of claim 113, further comprising receiving first and second inputs from a plurality of assessors, and determining the standard deviation of the first input, and the standard deviation of the second input, from the inputs received from the assessors, and then using a standard deviation to evaluate at least a portion of the organizational process or system.

135. (original) The method of claim 113, further comprising preparing an assessment timeline based on assessor input.

136. (original) The method of claim 135, further comprising notifying the assessor of a deadline identified in the assessment timeline.

137. (original) The method of claim 135, further comprising escalating a notification to one or more predetermined individuals if a response is not received from an assessor within a predetermined period of time.

138. (original) The method of claim 113, further comprising prompting an assessor to provided recommendations to improve the organizational process or system.

139. (original) The method of claim 113, further comprising performing an onsite assessment directed to one or more problem areas determined to be present in the organizational process or system.

140. (original) The method of claim 113, further comprising performing an onsite assessment directed to one or more problem areas determined to be present in the organizational process or system, wherein one ore more onsite assessor are provided with a list of the problem areas and a list of the corrective actions input.

141. (original) The method of claim 140, further comprising providing at least one onsite assessor with a PDA having a list of the problem areas and a list of the corrective actions input.

142. (original) The method of claim 140, wherein the results of the onsite assessment are input into the computer and stored in the computer's memory.

143. (original) The method of claim 140, wherein the results provided by each onsite assessor are adjusted by a bias value identified for that assessor.

144. (currently amended) A system for gathering information about an organizational process or system, comprising:

a display device adapted to display computer driven questions;

an input device adapted to transfer inputs from an assessor;

a processing unit; and

a memory, wherein the memory comprises a set of computer executable instructions configured to implement:

receiving general information about an organization process or system;

prompting an assessor to select at least two standards against which to assess the organizational process or system, wherein at least one question is provided within a computer to assess each selected standard, wherein at least one of the two selected standards is a recognized industry standard prescribing system or process criteria regarding cost, delivery, customer satisfaction, manufacturing technology, tool development, industrial quality, or environmental/health/safety, and wherein the recognized industry standard is selected based on the general information about the organization process or system;

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displaying on a display device the at least one question associated with the selected standards, the question being adapted to prompt an assessor to input the assessor's perceptions of the organizational process or system;

receiving a first input from an input device, the first input reflecting the assessor's perception of the organizational process or system; and

comparing within a processing unit of a computer the first input to a first value, and, if the first input has a first predetermined characteristic in relation to the first values, then prompting the assessor to identify evidence that supports the first input, and if the supporting evidence is identified, then validating the first input for subsequent evaluation, and if the supporting evidence is not identified, then inhibiting validation of the first input until the evidence is identified or until the first input is changed to have second predetermined characteristics in relation to the first value.

145. (previously presented) The system of claim 144, wherein the memory includes data generated by the set of computer executable instructions.